

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the pending application is respectfully requested on the basis of the following particulars.

1. Interview of July 14, 2009

The applicant is appreciative of the opportunity to discuss the pending application with the examiner during the interview conducted on July 14, 2009.

During the interview, the subject matter of the objections to the specification, claims, and drawings, and corrections thereto were discussed.

Similarly, the rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second and sixth paragraphs, and corrections thereto were also discussed.

Further, the rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) were discussed, in particular U.S. patent no. 3,797,194 (*Ekstein*) and WO publication 2005/033459 (*Brochez*). The applicant further pointed out that the *Brochez* publication has a publication date subsequent to the filing date of the pending application, and therefore cannot be considered a prior art document under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

The examiner indicated that in view of the use of the *Brochez* publication in the final rejection, the finality of the rejection will be withdrawn if another reference is used in place of the *Brochez* publication to reject the claims.

Additionally, proposed amendments to the claims, including amending claim 85 to include the features of claim 94 were discussed, which amendments requiring the resilient member to be in contact with the inner wall overcome the teachings of the *Ekstein* patent.

Although the proposed amendments were tentatively agreed to during the interview, upon a further review of the claims, the applicant would like to revise the amendments to claim 85 as discussed below.